



Protecting Lives Against Infection™

DRYING MADE EASY: INSTRUMENT PROCESSING IN THE STERRAD® NX™ SYSTEM

When transitioning to a low temperature sterilization process, drying is an essential part of instrument preparation. Moisture left on or in the device presents a barrier to achieving terminal sterilization and also may cause cycle cancellations. Therefore, all devices must be thoroughly dried before being placed in the STERRAD® NX™ System.

ASP conducted internal research study to evaluate approximate drying times when instruments are blown dry using compressed air. Mixed loads containing stainless steel and other types of instruments, including forceps, retractors, optical lightcords, etc. were submerged in water for approximately one minute, patted dry with a lint-free towel, then air-blown across all surfaces and inside lumens. These instruments achieved the level of necessary dryness for STERRAD System processing when compressed air was used for approximately 10 minutes at 18 PSI.*

For single-channel flexible scopes, five minutes of blowing 18 PSI compressed air on all surfaces and within channels was sufficient to successfully dry the instruments for sterilization.* For both the mixed loads and flexible scopes, 22 sterilization cycles were run successfully without cancellation under these drying conditions.

*Actual time to achieve proper dryness may vary based on instrumentation and the facility's actual compressed air set-up. Please consult with your medical gas supplier for the solution that best meets your facility's needs. When drying devices using compressed air, please refer to the medical device manufacturer's Instructions For Use for the maximum air pressure inside lumens.



ADVANCED STERILIZATION PRODUCTS

Division of Ethicon, Inc.
a **Johnson & Johnson** company



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COMPRESSED AIR DRYING SET-UP COMPONENTS

The following diagram illustrates one example of a compressed air set-up. Please consult with your medical gas supplier for the solution that best meets your facility's needs. When drying devices using compressed air, please refer to the medical device manufacturers' Instructions for Use for maximum air pressure inside lumens.



FROM WALL AIR CONNECTION (ASSUMING 1/2" NPT MALE)

| COMPONENT | INSTRUCTIONS |
|-----------|---|
| 1 | Female Coupling, Brass, 1/2" NPT female to 1/2" NPT female |
| 2 | Elbow, Brass, 1/2" NPT male to 1/2" NPT female |
| 3 | Pipe, Brass, 1/2" NPT male to 1/2" male |
| 4 | Air Regulator/Filter with Pressure Gauge |
| 5 | Bushing, Brass, 1/2" NPT male to 3/8" NPT female |
| 6 | Air Hose, 3/8" NPT male fittings, 3/8" Tubing inside diameter, Nylon, Coiled, 18 feet |
| 7 | Reducing Bushing, Brass, 3/8" NPT to 1/4" NPT |
| 8 | Air Gun Safety Nozzle, Aluminum, 1/4" NPT female connection |
| 9 | Connector, 1/4" NPT to 1/8" tube |

* Incoming air pressure from the wall should not exceed 150 PSI; please contact a certified installer

† ASP testing was conducted using 18 PSI; hose should be 3/8"

†† 1/4" tip is maximum size due to air flow; use rubber tip